

In the Claims

1. (canceled)
2. (canceled)
3. (original) A method of treating or preventing the onset of diabetic retinopathy in a patient comprising administering somatostatin to said patient and co-administering a thyroid-related substance.
4. (original) The method of claim 3, wherein said somatostatin is octreotide, lanreotide, vapreotide, MK 678, L-363-377, L-797,591, L-779,976, L-796-778, L-803,087, L-817,818, or combinations thereof.
5. (previously amended) The method of claim 3, wherein said thyroid related substance is thyroid hormone, thyroxine, thyrotropin, thyroid stimulating hormone, or analogues or pharmaceutically acceptable salts or derivatives thereof that have similar biological functionality or effect in the body
6. (original) A composition useful for treating or preventing the onset of DR comprising a mixture of somatostatin and a thyroid-related substance.
7. (original) A kit comprising at least one container having somatostatin and a thyroid-related substance disposed therein.
8. (original) The kit of claim 7 further comprising a syringe for administration of the somatostatin and thyroid-related substance.
9. (original) The kit of claim 8 wherein at least one container is one or more syringes having somatostatin and thyroid-related substance disposed in either one syringe as a mixture or in separate syringes.

10. (previously amended) The kit of claim 7 wherein the somatostatin and thyroid-related substance are in a form suitable for oral administration.
11. (original) A method of treating or preventing the onset of DR comprising administering somatostatin and co-administering a thyroid-related substance, wherein the dosage of said somatostatin and said thyroid-related substance is of an amount such that any synergistic effect of said administering or co-administering is optimized.
12. (original) An article of manufacture comprising somatostatin and thyroid-related substance.
13. (original) The article of manufacture of claim 12 in the form of a solid or liquid.
14. (previously amended) A method of treating or preventing the onset of diabetic retinopathy comprising assaying a group of somatostatin analogues for their ability to bind to a sstr2 somatostatin receptor; selecting one or more analogues having high affinity to said sstr2 somatostatin receptor; administering said one or more selected analogues to a patient in need thereof; and co-administering a thyroid-related substance.
15. (original) The method of claim 14 wherein said high affinity comprises a K_i value in nanomoles of about 2 or less.
16. (canceled)
17. (original) A method of treating or preventing DR in a patient comprising identifying whether said patient is susceptible to developing DR; administering somatostatin to said individual; and co-administering a thyroid related substance.
18. (currently amended) The method of claim 17, wherein said thyroid related substance is thyroxine delivered in an amount of 100-200 μg a day.